

1
2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

4 Cecilia Gonzalez,

5 Plaintiff

6 v.

7 Reno Police Department, et al.,

8 Defendants

Case No. 2:23-cv-02114-CDS-EJY

Order Dismissing and Closing Case

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10 Pro se plaintiff Cecilia Gonzalez brings this civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to
11 redress constitutional violations that she claims she suffered while incarcerated at Washoe
12 County Detention Center. ECF No. 1-1. On January 23, 2024, this court ordered Gonzalez to file a
13 fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full \$405 filing fee on or before
14 March 25, 2024. ECF No. 4. The court warned Gonzalez that the action could be dismissed if she
15 failed to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three documents or
16 pay the full \$405 filing fee for a civil action by that deadline. *Id.* at 2. That deadline expired and
17 Gonzalez did not file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, pay the full \$405
18 filing fee, or otherwise respond.

19 I. Discussion

20 District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of
21 that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case.
22 *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an
23 action based on a party’s failure to obey a court order or comply with local rules. *See Carey v. King*,
24 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with local rule
25 requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d
26 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order). In determining whether
27 to dismiss an action on one of these grounds, the court must consider: (1) the public’s interest in
28 expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of

1 prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and
2 (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. See *In re Phenylpropanolamine Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 460 F.3d
3 1217, 1226 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130).

4 The first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and
5 the court's interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of Gonzalez's claims. The
6 third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal because a
7 presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in filing a pleading
8 ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air W.*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir.
9 1976). The fourth factor—the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits—is
10 greatly outweighed by the factors favoring dismissal.

11 The fifth factor requires me to consider whether less drastic alternatives can be used to
12 correct the party's failure that brought about the need to consider dismissal. See *Yourish v. Cal.*
13 *Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining that considering less drastic alternatives
14 before the party has disobeyed a court order does not satisfy this factor); accord *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*,
15 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th Cir. 2002). Courts “need not exhaust every sanction short of
16 dismissal before finally dismissing a case, but must explore possible and meaningful alternatives.”
17 *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986). Because this court cannot operate without
18 collecting reasonable fees, and litigation cannot progress without a plaintiff's compliance with
19 court orders, the only alternative is to enter a second order setting another deadline. But issuing a
20 second order will only delay the inevitable and further squander the court's finite resources.
21 Setting another deadline is not a meaningful alternative given these circumstances. So the fifth
22 factor favors dismissal. Having thoroughly considered these dismissal factors, I find that they
23 weigh in favor of dismissal.

24 II. Conclusion

25 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
26 Gonzalez's failure to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full
27 \$402 filing fee in compliance with this court's January 23, 2024, order. The Clerk of Court is
28 directed to enter judgment accordingly and close this case. No other documents may be filed in

1 this now-closed case. If Gonzalez wishes to pursue her claims, she must file a complaint in a new
2 case and either pay the required filing fee or properly apply for *in forma pauperis* status.

3 Dated: May 8, 2024

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7 Cristina D. Silva
8 United States District Judge
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